

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 142

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the *Cannon Courier* upon its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of publication.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is proud to recognize the hardworking, dedicated, and innovative personnel who operate the print media outlets that are so important in keeping our populace informed, entertained, and in constant touch with both the world as a whole and their small corner of it; and

WHEREAS, the *Cannon Courier* is one such vital newspaper that has provided outstanding journalism to its readers for 125 years; and

WHEREAS, in 1884, the first issue of the *Cannon Courier* was published and it remains the oldest running business in the history of Cannon County; and

WHEREAS, over the course of its long and illustrious history, the *Courier* has had numerous editors and publishers including the late State Representative James H. Cummings, who served as editor from 1915 until 1918; and

WHEREAS, during the mid 1930's, Hayden Smith, uncle of current editor, Andy Bryson, purchased the paper and served as editor until 1950; and

WHEREAS, in the midst of the Great Depression, times were hard and the paper struggled to survive; through hard work, determination, and community support, this esteemed and historic newspaper found a way to keep the doors open and the presses running, often trading items including eggs, chickens, quilts, and milk for subscriptions and advertisement space in the paper; and

WHEREAS, in the early years, most of the young boys in the town of Woodbury worked at the paper in various jobs including running the presses, setting type, running the Linotype

machine, casting metal forms, hawking papers, and countless other duties it took to produce the paper each week; and

WHEREAS, over the course of the last 125 years, the *Courier* had several locations around the town square, and in the early 1930's, a fire that burned the courthouse and most of the town square, also burned the *Courier's* printing plant along with the paper's archives and records; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1950's, the paper was purchased by R. Mel Bryson, who served as editor and publisher of the paper for several decades until 1980, and during his tenure, the *Cannon Courier* was located on South Tatum Street; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, the *Cannon Courier* was purchased by the late State Representative John Bragg's two sons, Tommy Bragg, who is currently serving his second term as Mayor of Murfreesboro, and David Bragg, who was elected Circuit Judge of the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial District comprised of Cannon and Rutherford Counties in 2008. Their grandfather, the late Minor Bragg, also owned and published the *Courier* in the early 1920s; and

WHEREAS, after a series of ownership changes and several re-locations, the *Cannon Courier* has existed in its current location next door to the old Cannon County jail since 1995; and

WHEREAS, the *Cannon Courier* has been under the guidance and stewardship of Andy Bryson, nephew of former editor, Hayden Smith, who has served with acumen and alacrity as the current editor and publisher of the *Cannon Courier* since 1995, earning the respect of his colleagues and readership for his integrity and fair reporting; and

WHEREAS, over its distinguished 125 years of publication, the *Cannon Courier* has become an enduring and endearing part of the lives of its readers and the community; and

WHEREAS, the longevity of the *Cannon Courier* confirms the importance that the community places on this newspaper; and

WHEREAS, reporting on local events throughout its esteemed history, back issues of the newspaper are often the only source of information about occurrences that happened decades earlier; and

WHEREAS, though printing and publication techniques have changed over the course of the newspaper's 125 years, its mission of fair reporting and its long history of service to the community have not; and

WHEREAS, the dedication to journalistic excellence, innovation, and customer service evidenced by the editors, publishers, journalists, and staff of the *Cannon Courier* are worthy of our recognition and thanks; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we offer our heartiest congratulations to the editors, publishers, journalists, and staff of the *Cannon Courier* as they celebrate 125 years of outstanding service to their readership and wish them every success in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.